

going to have to do one or the other. You're going to have to give up your music or you're going to go back to being poor.' I would go poor, totally broke, and start over and do my music. That's how much I love it."

On behalf of all Tennesseans, I thank you, Dolly, for giving so much of yourself to us. The world is a better and richer place because of your music, and we love you for it.

#### TRIBUTE TO GUNNERY SERGEANT MARTIN ALEMAN

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, December is always a time of transitions here on Capitol Hill, and it is time for Team Blackburn to recognize the transition of our defense fellow, GySgt Martin Aleman, away from the Senate and toward a bright future rising in the ranks of the Marine Corps.

On the Armed Services Committee, we spend a great deal of time considering how the decisions we make in this building will affect budgets and workload and our overall national security; but paramount to me is the effect it will have on servicemembers and their families at home and abroad.

Since day one of his fellowship, Martin has been a bottomless well of information about what it is like to actually serve in the military. His stories from his service—sometimes entertaining, sometimes sobering—helped us remember that when all is said and done, each line item in a bill, dollar authorized, and penny spent will change the lives of the brave men and women who put on the uniform.

Martin, we will miss you, but I am sure Casandra is more than ready to reclaim the time our hectic schedule stole from you this past year. I wish you the best of luck as you take the next step in your already impressive career.

#### TRIBUTE TO MASTER SERGEANT JUSTIN KRONENBERG

Mr. CRAMER. Madam President, I would like to recognize and thank Justin Kronenberg, my 2022 Department of Defense legislative fellow, for all of his hard work and dedication to my office. He is an active duty master sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps with almost two decades of service. The wealth of knowledge and professionalism he brought have been incredibly valuable.

Throughout the year, Justin's expertise supported me in my role as a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and particularly as the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Seapower. He is a skilled communicator, which has been instrumental in distilling and explaining many of the complex policy matters before the committee. North Dakota had the privilege of hosting Justin for a week as he toured our military facilities, seeing firsthand the great work being done in Grand Forks, Minot, and Fargo. North Dakota and my office are better off thanks to Justin's service.

I would also like to thank Justin's family for the shared sacrifice and service they give this Nation. I wish Justin all the best at his next assignment and in all his future endeavors. Semper Fi.

#### TRIBUTE TO SRDJAN SIMUNOVIC

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, this month, Team Blackburn is saying goodbye to Srdjan Simunovic, who has spent 2 years with us as part of a fellowship program between my office and the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, which is just outside of Knoxville, TN.

Most staff here on Capitol Hill dabble in politics. Even our most dedicated policy staff tend to have ambitions that extend beyond their chosen portfolio, but the position of Oak Ridge fellow is special in that it attracts people whose expertise transcends politics.

It has been such a pleasure working with Srdjan over the past 2 years and watching him open my team's eyes to the truly marvelous things Tennesseans are doing at Oak Ridge. We will miss him tremendously, but I know his wife Marina and son Thomas will be grateful to have him home full time.

Srdjan, thank you for giving 2 years of your life to Team Blackburn. We wish you all the best with what comes next.

#### TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN BOYD

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, I want to honor a great public servant and Alabamian, my first chief of staff, Stephen Boyd. After nearly two decades of public service, we recently said goodbye to this integral part of our team. When you run for Congress, you learn that people are quick to give you advice—especially when you have had a lifelong career outside of politics. One tip I heard over and over was "hire a good chief of staff."

I assembled a lot of teams as a coach. I could easily tell you what makes a "good" offensive coordinator or a "good" defensive coordinator. But when I thought about what would make a "good" chief of staff, I decided I needed someone with three main qualifications: one, someone who knew the Federal Government; two, someone who knew Alabama; and three, someone who would lead with integrity. There were a lot of people who fit the first two qualifications, but the third qualification, integrity, was the most important to me. I was looking for someone who didn't just have the knowledge or skills required to oversee a Senate office and advise a Senator who was new to politics. I was looking for someone who wanted to do the right thing for the people we represent, someone who puts the service of others first. And that someone was Stephen Boyd.

To simply say Stephen was born to serve and born to lead would be accu-

rate. Stephen's grandfathers and father served in the military, and his family is dedicated to their community—but it would not tell the full picture. Stephen has purposefully led a life dedicated to constant learning so that he could be a better servant of others. A native of Birmingham, Stephen received his undergraduate degree from the University of Alabama. He used his God-given talents throughout his time in college to lead in many roles, including as president of university programs. Just last year, Stephen was awarded the University's Bert Bank Distinguished Service and Achievement Award, one of school's highest alumni honors. He went on to earn a law degree at Alabama, and upon graduation, Stephen felt a calling to serve—and headed to Washington, DC, to work for then-Senator Jeff Sessions from Alabama. During his time in Senator Sessions' office, Stephen held positions of increasing responsibility and served at times in policy and communications roles.

He quickly earned a reputation for being able to digest complex policy details and tell the story of the office's work in a way that resonated with Alabamians back home. This is where Stephen began to fully understand the responsibility that all of our offices have to keep our constituents informed. While Senator Sessions served on the Judiciary Committee, Stephen led the Senator's communications through some of the most crucial moments in the Senate: Supreme Court nominations and confirmations. It was also during this time that Stephen met Martha Roby. At the time, Martha was an attorney in Montgomery running for the U.S. House in an extremely competitive district. Senator Sessions asked Stephen to serve his State by going home and making sure Martha became Congresswoman Roby. Stephen, of course, agreed. He ran a campaign in what turned out to be the most expensive election in the district's history, and Martha Roby would go on to serve in the House for a decade. After helping her earn her place in Congress, Congresswoman Roby naturally asked Stephen to help build her office in DC as her chief of staff.

Again, he stepped up. It was a new challenge to start an office from scratch, but Stephen is always willing to put in the effort to find solutions. That is one of the things that stands out most about Stephen: his devotion to learning. He learns the details of institutions he works for, the Members he works for, and the constituents he works for, all in order to ensure he is consistently meeting their needs. He learned quickly how important the role of oversight is for Congress. And through all of his roles so far, he has maintained a great respect for the power of congressional oversight and what it means for the American people. In Martha Roby's office, Stephen led his team to investigate the care provided by Department of Veterans Affairs to Alabama's veterans. Under his